GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2428
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2017
Contamination of Drinking Water
Chaudhury Shri Jitendra

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the drinking water sources are contaminated by sewage and agriculture run-off and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether 21% of communicable diseases in India are related to unsafe drinking water and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether diarrhoea caused due to unsafe drinking water alone causes more than 1,600 deaths all over the country;
(d) if so, the details thereof; and
(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)

(a) Technology adopted for rural sanitation is onsite twin pit pour flush latrine. Sewage treatment plants are constructed only for urban areas, the data of which is not maintained in this Ministry. Further, this Ministry has not received any report from any State regarding contamination of drinking water sources due to agricultural run-off.
(b) As per reports available, 21% of communicable diseases in India are water related. The highest mortality from diarrhoea is in children under the age of five, highlighting an urgent need for focused interventions to prevent diarrhoeal disease in this age group.
(c) & (d) As per the reports of National Health Profile - 2015 published by the Central Bureau of Health Investigation, Directorate General Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, during the year 2014 (January to December), 1,323 deaths had occurred due to Acute Diarrhoeal Diseases in India. State-wise details of deaths occurred is at Annexure.
(e) The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has focused its approach in providing safe drinking water through piped water supply schemes so that safe water is available at point of use/consumption. States have been advised to take up proper disinfection practices so that bacteriological contamination does not occur in the water supply schemes.

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